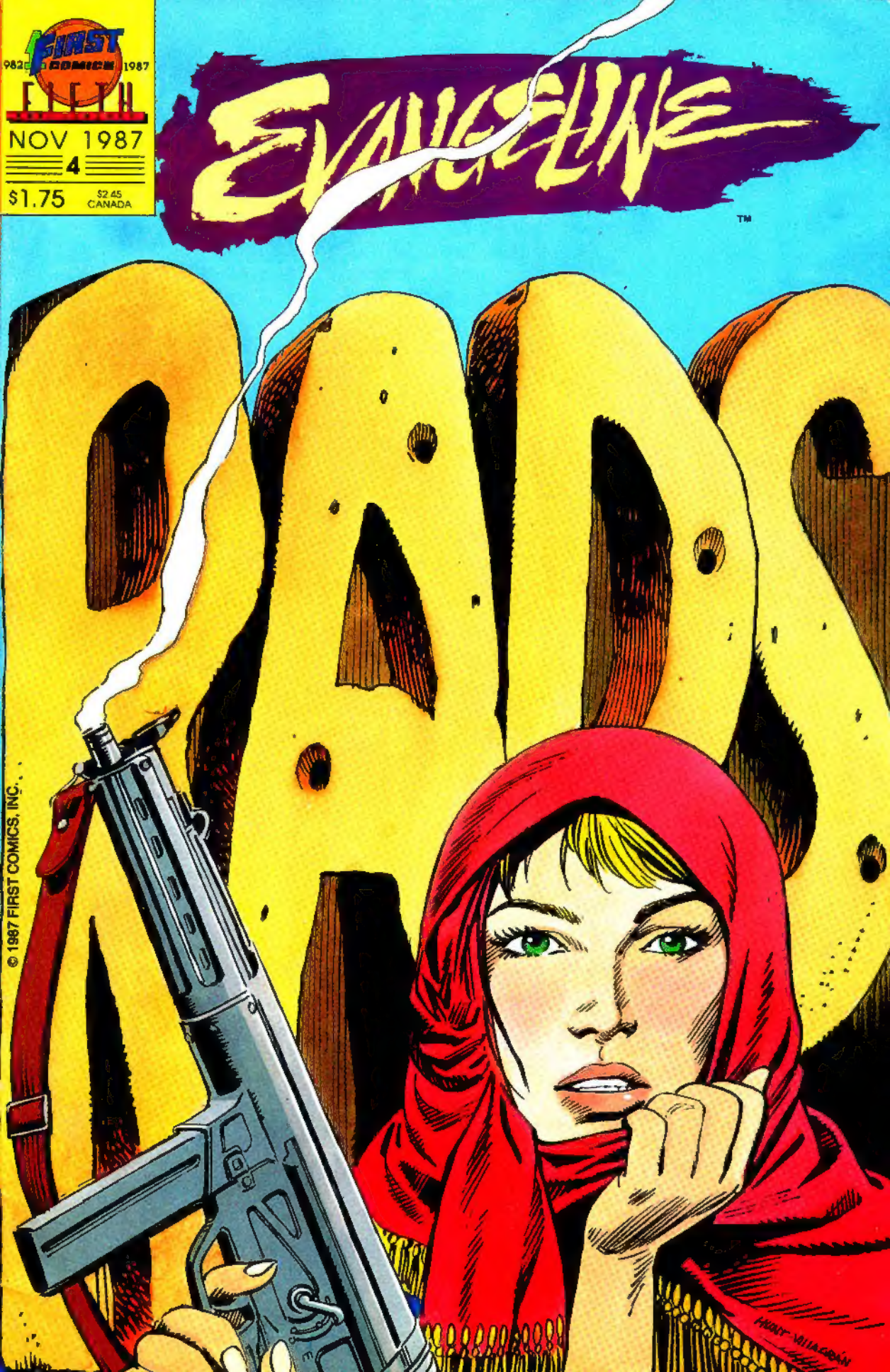
FIRST COMICS
1982 1987
NOV 1987
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$1.75
$2.45 CANADA
EVANGELINE
™
RAIDS
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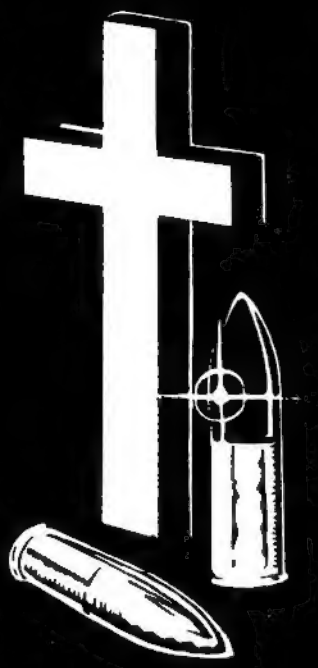
WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



It is the 23rd century, and many things have changed... and many things remain the same. Humans have colonized the stars... and they still persecute each other for religious beliefs. Enter **Evangeline**: executioner and saviour. She has a special mission... and friends in *very* high places.

She is an expert at hand-to-hand combat and is proficient with a wide variety of weapons; but she has a special affinity for the old-fashioned bow and arrow.

Her special mission: to protect and avenge victims of religious persecution throughout the galaxy.

And she's already had a lot of experience. She avenged the senseless slaughter of an orphanage full of innocent children and nuns on Mars and dispatched a gang of interstellar highjackers who mistook her for a defenseless countess.

Her friends: the mysterious **Cardinal Szn**, the high-ranking Vatican official who recruited Evangeline; and **Jonny Six**, a professional thief.

Who is Evangeline? She's a nun — a very *dangerous* nun.

LAST ISSUE: When a crate of the Romanov family's gold was found at the Vatican, Szn sent Evangeline to retrieve the rest. Russia isn't what it used to be — especially after the "Holy Purge" plague — but human nature is, and Evangeline might have died without the aid of some good "Catrick" cossacks. Now she and **Brian Hager** are transporting the buillion back to Rome...

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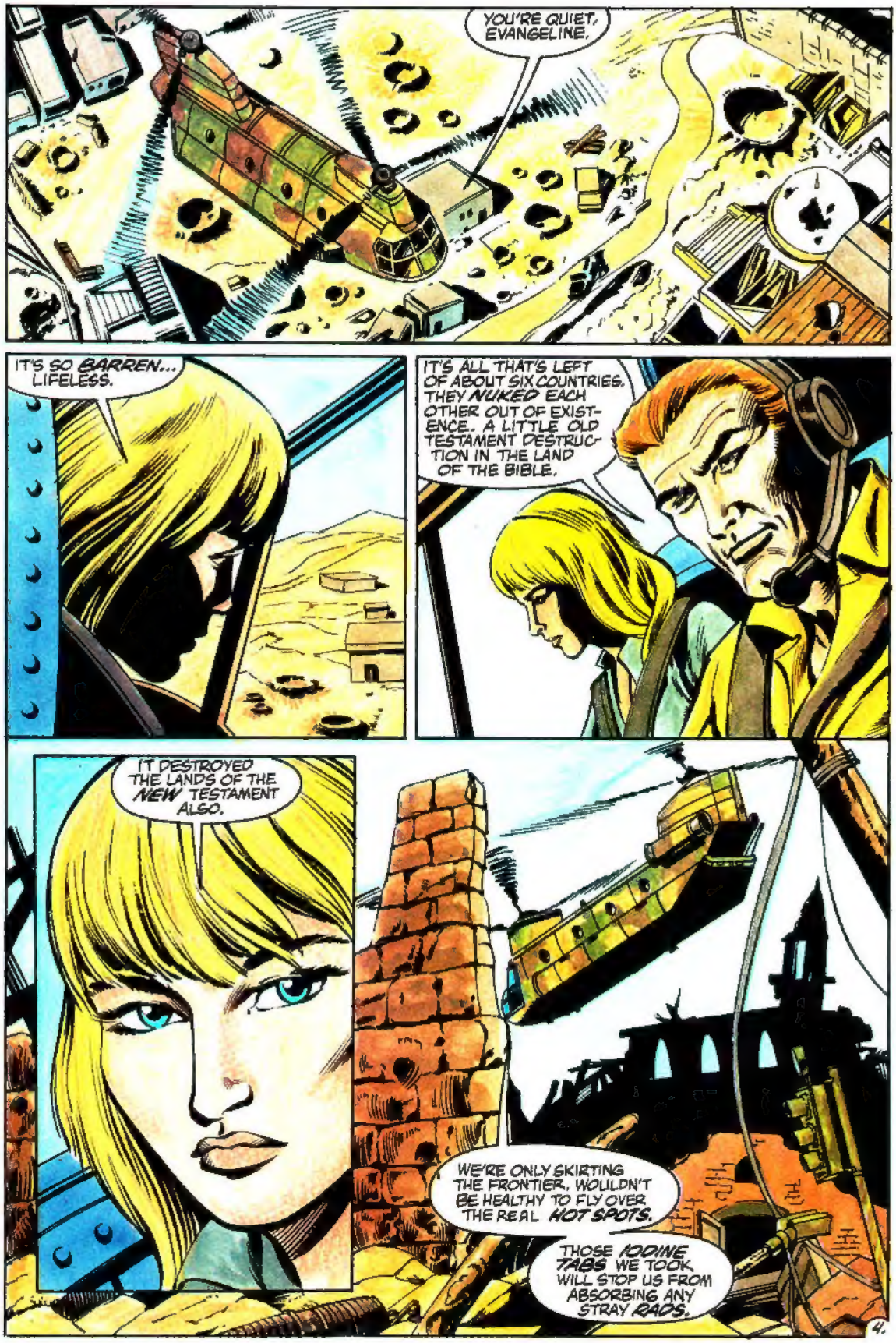
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST...
I CANNOT GO ON...GOD FORGIVE ME.
...FORGIVE... ME...
YOU! GET UP!
...CAN'T GO...ON...
GET UP OR DIE HERE, PIG!
TO YOUR FEET OR I'LL KILL YOU.
IT IS A SIN TO WASTE A BULLET.

DON'T MOURN HIM, YOU BASTARDS! HE HAS ONLY MADE YOUR LOADS HEAVIER!
THEY LAST ONLY A FEW DAYS NOW.
IT IS THE DEATH--IT IS WORSE IN THIS AREA.
IT IS ALWAYS WORSE WHERE THE GOLD IS.
LISTEN! I HEAR SOMETHING.
AN AIRCRAFT!
I WAS RIGHT! LOOK! AN AIRSHIP! IT MIGHT SEE US! WE MUST MOVE!
BUNT!
GET OFF YOUR ASSES! STOP YOUR MOPING, LAYABOUTS! TO YOUR FEET!

EVANGELINE AND BRIAN HAGER ARE RETURNING FROM SIBERIA IN A HELICOPTER TRANSPORT LOADED WITH ALMOST FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS IN GOLD BULLION LOOTED FROM THE HIDDEN TREASURE TROVES OF CZAR NICHOLAS II...
EVANGELINE™
CREATED BY DIXON & HUNT
WE'LL TAKE A LITTLE DETOUR TO MY BASE IN NORTH AFRICA. WOULDN'T DO TO FLY STRAIGHT TO THE VATICAN WITH THIS LOAD, EH LITTLE SISTER?
RADS
WRITER CHARLES DIXON • PENCILLER JUDITH HUNT • INKER JOHN NYBERG
LETTERER TOM ADDIS
COLORIST TOM McCRAW
EDITOR RICK OLIVER


YOU'RE QUIET, EVANGELINE.
IT'S SO BARREN... LIFELESS.
IT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF ABOUT SIX COUNTRIES. THEY NUKED EACH OTHER OUT OF EXISTENCE. A LITTLE OLD TESTAMENT DESTRUCTION IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE.
IT DESTROYED THE LANDS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ALSO.
WE'RE ONLY SKIRTING THE FRONTIER. WOULDN'T BE HEALTHY TO FLY OVER THE REAL HOT SPOTS.
THOSE IODINE TABS WE TOOK WILL STOP US FROM ABSORBING ANY STRAY RADS.

AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THE CARDINAL'S LOOT GETS TO HIM WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T CALL IT THAT, BRIAN.
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT? WE DIDN'T EXACTLY FIND IT IN A COLLECTION PLATE.
IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH, IT'S AN OLD DEBT OWED BY THE ROMANOV FAMILY.
AT LEAST I ADMIT I'M A THIEF. I DON'T HIDE BEHIND GOD TO DO MY STEALING.
IT IS NOT ST--
KA-WHUMP!
WH-RAMM!
5

WHAT'S GOING ON?
FLAK! WHO THE HELL IS SHOOTING AT US?
ARE WE GOING DOWN?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT, LITTLE SISTER.
HOLD ON!
AH HAH HAH!
A GOOD SHOT!
LET'S SEE WHAT WE GOT.
6.

...EVANGELINE ... WHERE ARE YOU...?
EVANGELINE... IS THAT YOU?
WE WANT TO HELP YOU FIND HER.
TAKE CARE. HE FLEW OUT OF THE DEATH PLACE. HE IS UNCLEAN.
...WHAT DID YOU DO... WITH HER?
LOOK FOR THIS WOMAN HE SPEAKS OF/ THEN WE STRIP THE HELI-COPTER.
NOW WHAT ELSE DO YOU CARRY, BIRDMAN?
ALLAKAH! COME QUICKLY! SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOUND!
YOU ARE A VERY RICH BIRDMAN.
GET THE SLAVES! WE MUST CARRY THIS TO THE CAMP.
NOW YOU LEARN TO WALK, BIRDMAN.
HAH! HA! HA!
DAMN IT.

LATER THAT SAME DAY...
WHO HAVE WE HERE? A TOURIST?
MY AIRSHIP WENT DOWN A FEW MILES FROM HERE. MY FRIEND WAS TAKEN BY SOME MEN. CAN YOU HELP?
THIS IS A HARD LAND. YOU GET ONLY WHAT YOU EARN. WHY SHOULD WE HELP YOU?
SHE HAS A GUN. LET ME KILL HER.
OUR SHIP CARRIED GOLD. HELP ME AND I'LL SHARE IT WITH YOU.
SHARE? AND WHAT ABOUT THE MEN WHO TOOK IT?
I'LL LEAD YOU TO THEM. WE'LL TAKE THE GOLD--AND IF THEY'VE HURT MY FRIEND, WE'LL KILL THEM.
SO YOU ARE A TOURIST AND A WARRIOR. WELL YOU MUST PROVE TO ME THAT YOU ARE A WARRIOR.

YOUR NEW CAGE, BIRD.
HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
HAH!
WHERE AM I...?
WHERE IN GOD'S NAME AM I?
NO, MY FRIEND, GOD'S NAME IS UNKNOWN HERE.
WHAT...WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
WE ARE THE DAMNED.

NOW YOU WILL FIGHT ONE OF MY MEN TO SHOW US HOW MIGHTY A WARRIOR YOU ARE.
I WILL FIGHT HER. SHE IS A CHRISTIAN DOG!
IF I MAY, I WOULD LIKE TO CHOOSE MY OWN OPPONENT, LADY.
I'LL FIGHT HIM.
A VALIANT CHOICE-- IF NOT A SMART ONE.
OKTAR WILL CRUSH THE FOOL.

CAN I HAVE SOME WATER NOW--OR MUST I WRESTLE A LION, TOO?

FIRST NOTES

Well, it's time to get out the hats and hooters, smash bottles of champagne over our heads, and generally make complete fools of ourselves. But hey, we're in the comics business, so we do that pretty much every day anyway.

Not that this is a foolish business, mind you. No, of course not. Comics are serious business. Yes, indeed.

So... what were we talking about anyway?

Oh, yes. Get out the festive crépe paper and colorful party favors because it's time to celebrate FIRST COMICS' FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

To celebrate this incredible but true event, we have festooned all our comics with a tremendously impressive fifth anniversary logo which makes each and every one a priceless collector's item, and we have fashioned tremendously exciting fifth anniversary pins, which I will be selling in the lobby for tremendously inflated prices. They epitomized my concepts for laser hologram fifth anniversary centerfolds, battery-operated neon fifth anniversary coffee mugs, and liquid crystal fifth anniversary two-way wrist radios... but hey, what do they know, huh?

Anyway, as part of our gala fifth anniversary craze, this month we debut a brand new series: **Psychoblast!**

Actually, it has virtually nothing to do with our fifth anniversary hoopla, it's just an amazing coincidence. But it just happens to be a terrific new book, and if you don't want to take my word for it, then just pick up a copy of **First Six-Pack #2** for the amazingly low price of $9.95! No, wait, that's not right. Let's see . . 50¢! The amazingly low price of 50¢!

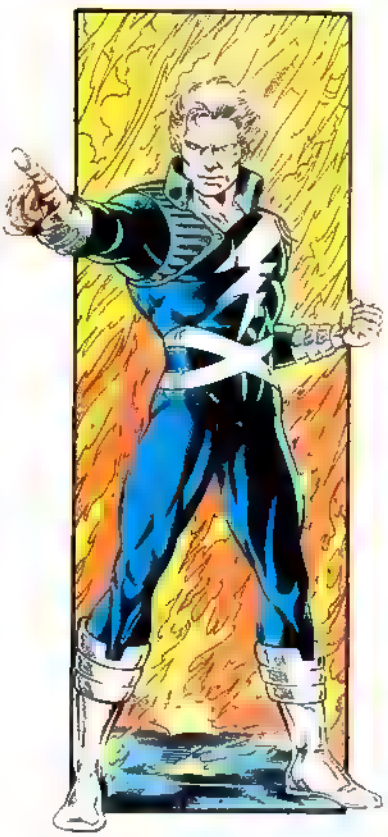
Wait, that can't be right either. Only 50¢? Yep, that's what it says. Well, it's too late to change it now, so I guess we'll just have to live with it. **First Six-Pack #2**, featuring: **Psychoblast #1, Dreadstar #33, Shatter #12, Jon Sable Freelance #54, American Flagg! #47,** and **Whisper #10.** All for only 50¢!

Still not impressed? Well, neither was I! So I demanded more, more, more! I mean, come on! This is our FIFTH ANNIVERSARY! Right? If we were married, this would be our wooden anniversary! Not that I'm proposing or anything, but that's not the point. What is the point? Hang on. Give me a minute. Oh, right — we should give each and every one of you something made out of wood! Something personal. Something meaningful. Something sentimental. Something incredibly cheap so we won't go bankrupt giving away two hundred thousand of them!

And did we come up with something? Did we? You bet we did! Now you can get the First Edition every month from your local retailer. It tells you what's coming up in the First Comics line. It's so cheap it's almost free. In fact, in many stores it *is* free! And it's paper, so it's made out of wood!

Still not impressed? This month's issue of **American Flagg!** (#46) features a special retrospective of the first four years of **AF!** and a preview of things to come, including a look at the special four-part **AF!** extravaganza by **Howard Chaykin, Paul Smith,** and **Mike Vosburg.** It starts next month in issue #47 and culminates in a spectacular 50th anniversary issue!

Still not impressed? Tough luck! Because that's pretty much the proverbial "it." Except of course for:



FIRST IN JULY

American Flagg! #46: Special all-apology issue! A retrospective of the first four years of **AF!**, and a preview of things to come! Find out what writer/creator **Howard Chaykin**, and artists **Paul Smith** and **Mike Vosburg** have in store for the next four issues, culminating with a special 50th anniversary issue. Cover by **Howard Chayin**. Now a deluxe series.

Badger #29: Guest artist **Eric Shanower** joins writer **Mike Baron** to reveal "The Magic Word." *"Fun. Grade: A."* **Don Thompson**, *CBG*.

Corum #6: Corum begins a treacherous journey in search of the mystical City in the Pyramid on a quest to recruit allies against the evil hordes of Chaos. By **Mike Baron, Mike Mignola** and **Kelley Jones**. Bi-monthly series.

Dreadstar #33: On his first special task force assignment, Vanth tracks down a trio of sorcerer priests. But can Dreadstar withstand the psychic onslaught of . . . Willow? By **Jim Starlin, Luke McDonnell** and **Val Mayerik.** Bi-monthly series. *"Grade: A."* **Don Thompson**, *CBG*.

Dynamo Joe #13: The Alliance has trapped and contained the central core-mind of the Mellenares. But when Pomru discovers the true origin of Wolf-1's incredible power, Dynamo Joe must face the unexpected threat of "A Wolf in the Fold." By **Phil Foglio, Ben Dunn** and **Brian Thomas**. *"This is an entertaining comic..."* **Don Thompson**, *CBG*.

Evangeline #4: Captured by terrorists in a nuclear wasteland, Evangeline must face the dangers of "Rads." By **Chuck Dixon, Judith Hunt** and **Ricardo Villagran.** Bi-monthly series.

Grimjack #40: Beginning a major new direction in the saga of John Gaunt! After a reunion with some old friends, Grimjack must vanquish an old enemy — the murderous man-machine, Kalibos! By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake**. *"Grade: A."* **Don Thompson**, *CBG*.

Hawkmoon #2: Hawkmoon is transported to a mystic plane via the magic of his crystal rings. By **Roger Salick** and **Raphael Kayanan.** Painted cover by **Dave Dorman.** Bi-monthly series.

Jon Sable, Freelance #53. Who is the mysterious man from Myke Blackmon's past — and what does he want with Sable? By **Mike Grell** and **Gerald Forton.** *"... excellent and believable adventure stories. Grade: A plus."* **Don Thompson**, *CBG*.

Lone Wolf and Cub #3. The Lone Wolf must kill a living Buddha to transcend "The Gateless Barrier." By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima.** Cover and introduction by **Frank Miller.** 64 pages. Perfect bound. Black-and-white.

Nexus #38. The return of the dreaded slaver Claus us! By **Mike Baron** and special guest artist **Paul Smith**. *"Grade A plus."* **Don Thompson**, *CBG*.

Psychoblast #1. First issue! New series! Who is Brian Burke? That's what he'd like to know. But his right brain and **Psychoblast** have other ideas! The debut of a *different* kind of superhero by **Steven Grant** and hot new artist **Robb Phipps**.

WE WILL BE LEAV NG SOON. THEY ALWAYS TAKE US OUT AT NIGHT, WHEN IT IS COOL.
HOW FAR INTO THE DEATH ZONE DO THEY TAKE YOU?
IT IS FARTHER EACH TIME. WE SOMETIMES WALK ALL NIGHT. THEN WE DIG FOR TREASURES.
WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT? THEY ARE KILLING YOU.
OUR CHILDREN. THEY SAY THEY WILL KILL THE CHILDREN. SEND THEM TO THE DEATH PLACE.
WELL, IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, THEY'RE GETTING CONTAMINATED BY THEIR OWN LOOT.
THAT IS COLD COMFORT, AT BEST.
AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE WALK. MAKE SURE THE BIRDMAN CARRIES HIS SHARE.

THIS PLACE SMELLS OF DEATH.
DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?
THEY ARE JACKALS. THEY FEED ON THE DEAD.
THEY MAKE SLAVES OF ANY THEY FIND AND FORCE THEM INTO THE DEAD LANDS TO BRING BACK TREASURES.
THEY HAVE A HEAVY GUN THEY STRIPPED OFF OF THE HELICOPTER. I'M GOING DOWN THERE TO TAKE IT.
ONCE I BEGIN FIRING, YOU RIDE INTO THE CAMP. THERE ARE CHILDREN DOWN THERE, SO NO WILD SHOOTING.
NO ONE WILL DIE WHO DOES NOT DESERVE IT.
EXACTLY.
13.

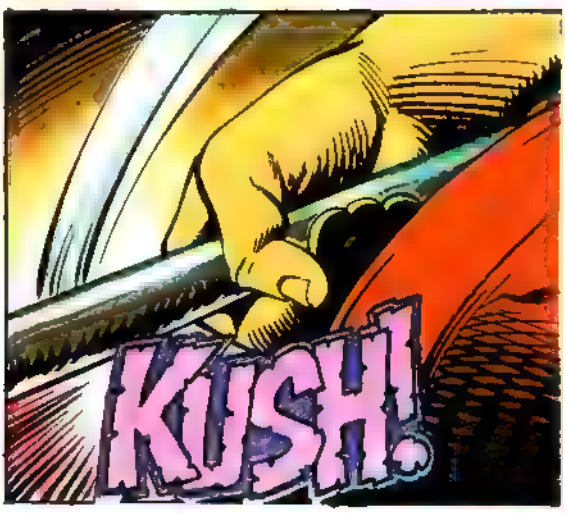
WHOP!
IF YOU MOVE, YOU ARE DEAD.
I AM SORRY. I FOLLOWED YOU.
DON'T APOLOGIZE.
THE GUN IS THIS WAY.
14.

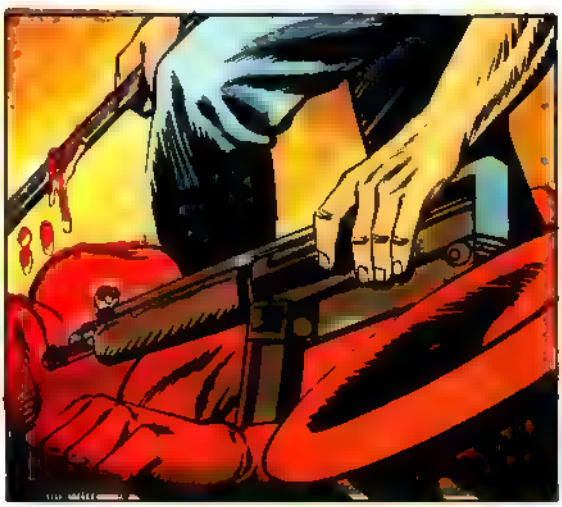
OOOHHH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH... MY... LORD...
OOOEEEUURRGH... GAKK...
I...DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.
HEY! LOOK WHAT I FOUND.
15.

WHAT IS IT, BIRDMAN?
I FOUND SOME-THING.
WHAT?

I'M NOT SURE.
IT LOOKS LIKE A VAULT. MAYBE THERE'S GOLD IN-SIDE.

GOLD?


KUSH!



NOW WE EVEN THE ODDS A BLEEDIN' BIT.

AT THE LOOTER'S CAMP.
WHO IS SO STUPID TO WAKE ME?
IT'S...
IT IS HEADLIGHTS OF TRUCK.
TELL THEM TO SHUT THEM OFF. GO!
I HOPE THIS THING DOESN'T TEAR THE TRUCK APART.
BRRRRRRRRRRP!

BRRRRRRRP!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM!!
RATATATATATATATAT
VIPP!
VIPP!
VIPP!

GET UP! GET UP! THERE'S WORK TO DO!
AK! OOH! STOP... PLEASE STOP..
LEAVE HER ALONE.
UH?
YOU MAY AS WELL TRY TO REACH FOR YOUR GUNS.
TAKATAKA!
WHAT ARE WE TO DO?
GRAB THEIR RIFLES! YOU! THERE'S ANOTHER RIFLE OVER THERE!
WE'RE GOING BACK TO GET YOUR CHILDREN.

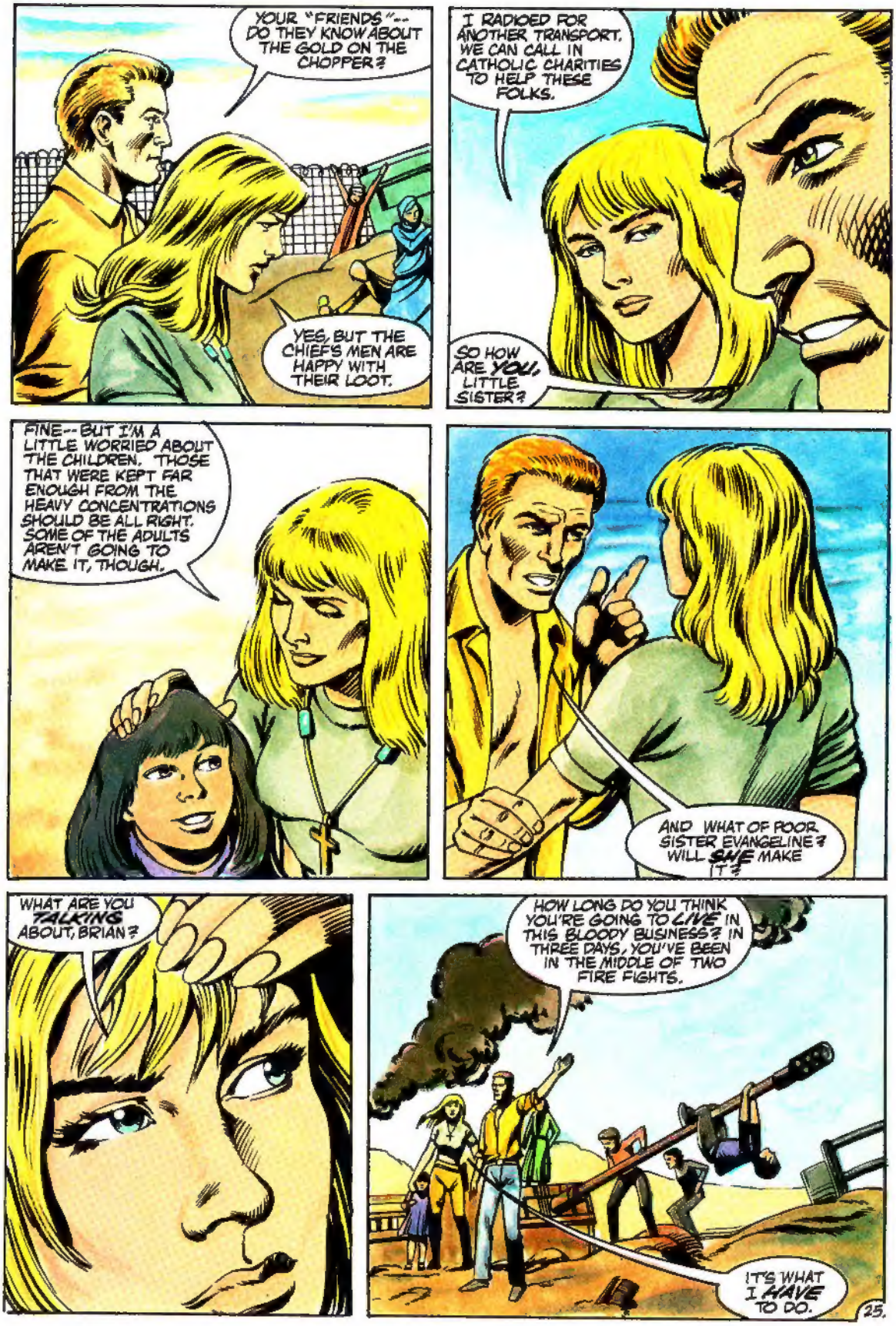
TEEMA! TAKE UZEK AND THALI--SEE TO THE CHILDREN.
BASTARDS! YOU'LL PAY! I MAKE YOU PAY IN BLOOD!
PAY IN BLOOD!
TAKATAKATAKATAKATAK
ALL WILL PAY-- ALL WILL DIE!

ALL... WILL... DIE... ALL...
OKTAR! OVER THERE! TAKE ME OVER THERE!
BRATATAT
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
TAKATAKA
BLAM!

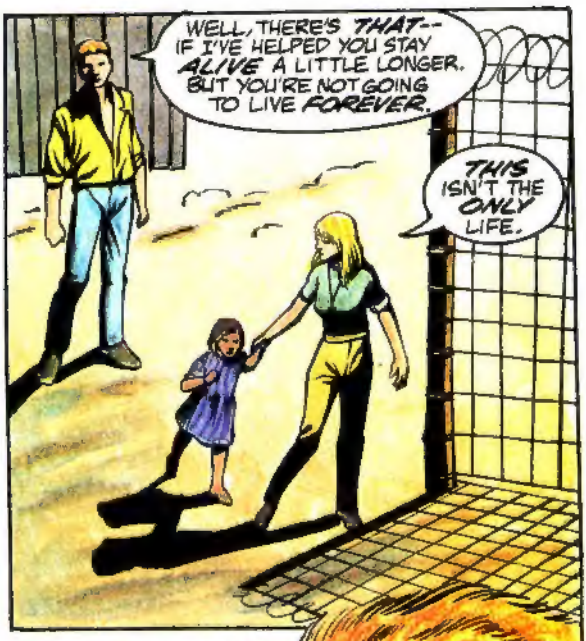
NOTHING CAN STOP ME--
I KILL ALL THE-- BASTARDS--
--BIG AND SMALL--
UH!
BLAM BLAM
THERE.
YOU DID IT!
YES, WE DID.

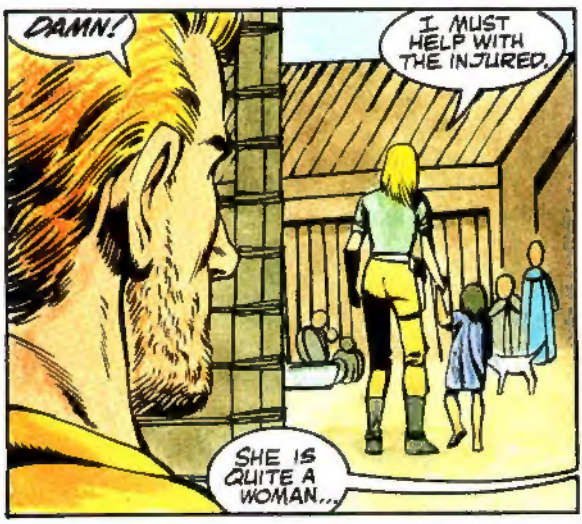
UH?
NO...
NO...

KHALI, YOUR DAUGHTER'S BEEN SHOT.
IS SHE ALIVE?
JUST A SHOULDER WOUND.
SHE WILL BE FINE. SHE IS VERY TOUGH.
YES.
TELL YOUR MEN TO TAKE ONLY THE GEMS AND LEAVE THE METAL BEHIND. IT'LL BE FULL OF THE "DEATH."
IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO CONVINCE THEM OF THAT.
I'LL LET YOU HANDLE THAT.
EVANGELINE...
WHAT?
I THOUGHT I'D BE SEEING YOU AGAIN-- ESPECIALLY WHEN I HEARD GUNFIRE.
ARE THE KIDS SAFE?
24

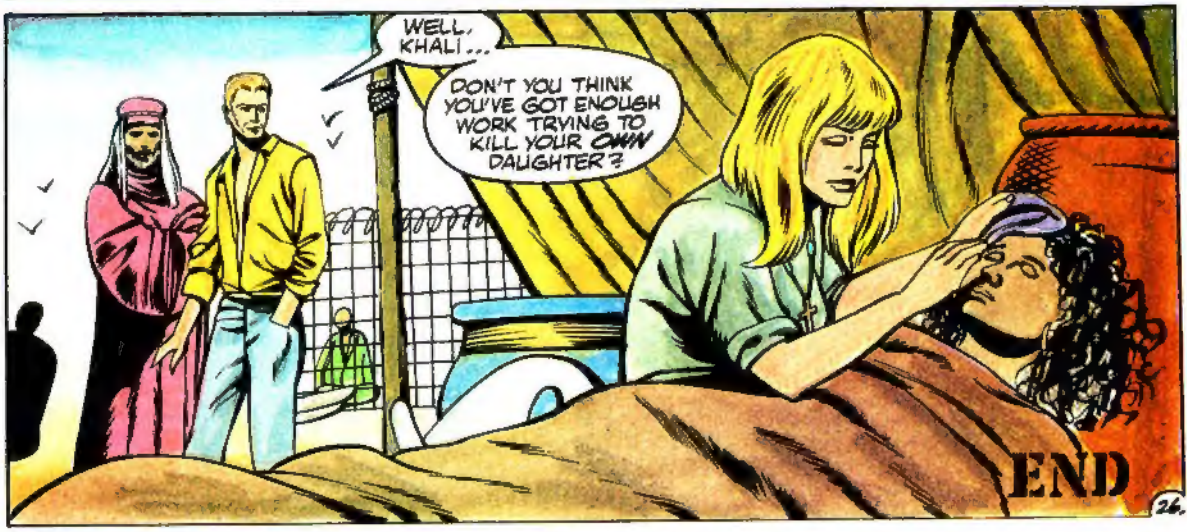

YOUR "FRIENDS"... DO THEY KNOW ABOUT THE GOLD ON THE CHOPPER?
YES, BUT THE CHIEF'S MEN ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR LOOT.
I RADIOED FOR ANOTHER TRANSPORT. WE CAN CALL IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES TO HELP THESE FOLKS.
SO HOW ARE YOU, LITTLE SISTER?
FINE--BUT I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THE CHILDREN. THOSE THAT WERE KEPT FAR ENOUGH FROM THE HEAVY CONCENTRATIONS SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. SOME OF THE ADULTS AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT, THOUGH.
AND WHAT OF POOR SISTER EVANGELINE? WILL SHE MAKE IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BRIAN?
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE IN THIS BLOODY BUSINESS? IN THREE DAYS, YOU'VE BEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF TWO FIRE FIGHTS.
IT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

I'D THANK GOD IF I COULD TALK SOME SENSE TO YOU.
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME HOW TO SURVIVE, BRIAN.


WELL, THERE'S THAT-- IF I'VE HELPED YOU STAY ALIVE A LITTLE LONGER. BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER.
THIS ISN'T THE ONLY LIFE.


DAMN!
I MUST HELP WITH THE INJURED.
SHE IS QUITE A WOMAN...

YEAH.
SHE IS A GREAT FIGHTER AND A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. A MAN WOULD BE PROUD TO HAVE SUCH A DAUGHTER.


WELL, KHALI...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH WORK TRYING TO KILL YOUR OWN DAUGHTER?
END